

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOGADI 01269 100734Z

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ACTION SY-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-04 SSO-00 SYE-00 /007 W
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O 100646Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4099
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1269

LIMDIS

ADDIS ABABA FOR REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: ASEC, PINR, SO, US
SUBJECT: ATTEMPTED BREAK-IN

1. SUMMARY: AN ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE TO BREAK INTO THE EMBASSY.
THE EMBASSY WILL REQUIRE ASSISTANCE IN STRENGTHENING PHYSICAL AND
TECHNICAL SECURITY. END SUMMARY

2. A PERSON OR PERSONS UNKNOWN ATTEMPTED TO BREAK INTO THE EMBASSY
FROM THE ROOF IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF AUGUST 9. A ROOF ALARM
ALERTED THE MARINE GUARD ON DUTY WHILE THE ATTEMPTED BREAK-IN WAS
IN PROGRESS. THE MARINE OBSERVED THE INTRUDER'S EFFORTS FROM THE
INSIDE STAIRWELL, BUT NO VISUAL, VOICE OR OTHER CONTACT WAS MADE
WITH THE INTRUDER. THE LATTER FLED WHEN TWO OTHER MARINES ARRIVED
ON THE SCENE. LATER IT WAS FOUND THAT THE WOODEN OUTER DOOR TO
THE ROOF HAD BEEN FORCED, BUT AN INNER METAL GRILL REMAINED INTACT.
THE EMBASSY IS STILL ATTEMPTING TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY UNAUTHOR-
IZED ENTRY OR TAMPERING TOOK PLACE. THE EMBASSY HAS INFORMED THE
THE LOCAL POLICE, WHICH IS INVESTIGATING.

3. THE MARINE GUARD'S REPORT TO THE NCOIC IS REPRODUCED
HERE IN FULL. QTE MONDAY 9 AUGUST 1976. APPROXIMATELY 0045
THE ROOF-STAIRS ALARM SOUNDED. I IMMEDIATELY HURRIED UP THE
STAIRS AND WHEN I GOT TO THE THIRD DECK I KNEW THERE WAS SOME-
ONE ON THE ROOF. BEING MY FIRST "MID-WATCH" MY FIRST INSTINCT
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WAS TO PULL OUT MY REVOLVER. HOWEVER, I KNEW THAT NO INDIVIDUAL

WAS GOING TO GET THROUGH THE BOLTED SCREEN DOOR. I WENT ALL THE WAY TO THE DOOR. THE INDIVIDUAL WAS TRYING TO FORCE THE OUTSIDE DOOR OPEN. HE WAS BENDING IT BACK AND FORTH TRYING TO BREAK THE LATCH. BEING HONEST, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. I KNEW I HAD TO CALL SOMEONE BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO TAKE MY EYES OFF THAT DOOR.

FIVE MINUTES PASSED, THE PHONE RANG, I LEFT THE DOOR AND ANSWERED THE PHONE. IT WAS LCPL IVERSON. I SAID TO HIM, "SOMEONE IS ON THE ROOF TRYING TO BREAK IN, GO GET THE GUNNY AND GET THE HELL DOWN HERE". HE THOUGHT I MIGHT BE KIDDING AND I SAID, WOULD I HAVE YOU GO GET THE GUNNY AND GET THE HELL DOWN HERE IF I WAS KIDDING?" THREE MORE MINUTES HAD PASSED WHEN I HUNG UP THE PHONE. I WENT TO THE FIRST LANDING AND LOOKED UP. WHOEVER WAS THERE WAS STILL TRYING TO BREAK THE OUTSIDE DOOR. I THEN HURRIED DOWN THE STAIRS TO THE DUTY DRIVER ALI. I TOLD HIM THAT THERE WAS SOMEONE ON THE ROOF AND TO GO TO THE MARINE HOUSE. I ASSUMED THAT THE GUNNY HAD BEEN NOTIFIED AND THAT HE WOULD BY THEN BE AT THE MARINE HOUSE. I WAS DOWNSTAIRS FOR ONE MINUTE. I HURRIED BACK UPSTAIRS TO THE FIRST LANDING BY THE ROOF DOOR. I PULLED OUT CHEMICAL MACE AND UNSNAPPED MY HOLSTER ANTICIPATING ANYTHING. THE DOOR WAS STILL BEING PLAYED WITH. FOR APPROXIMATELY FIFTEEN MINUTES I STOOD AT THE FIRST LANDING. WHOEVER IT WAS DID NOT LET UP ON THE OUTSIDE DOOR. THEN THE DOORBELL RANG, I HURRIED DOWN THE STAIRS ANTICIPATING THE GUNNY AND OTHER MARINES. HOWEVER THE GUNNY WAS NOT NOTIFIED. AT THE TIME I WAS RELIEVED TO HAVE FELLOW MARINES ABOARD.

CPL ALLEN, LCPL IVERSON, AND MYSELF HURRIED TO THE SECOND DECK WHERE CPL ALLEN RETRIEVED THE SHOTGUN AND WE HEADED TO THIRD DECK. WHEN WE GOT TO THE TOP THE LEFT SIDE OF THE OUTSIDE DOOR WAS WIDE OPEN. CPL ALLEN OPENED THE LOCK AND WE PROCEEDED OUTSIDE. WE SEARCHED THE ROOF AND SIDES OF THE BUILDING FOR ANY SIGNS TO NO AVAIL. WE THEN SECURED BOTH DOORS AND THE TWO MARINES LEFT. I WENT BACK TO THE THIRD DECK AND WAITED FOR HALF HOUR TO SEE IF ANYONE WOULD RETURN. NO ONE DID. I THEN CONTINUED SECURITY CHECKS FOR THE REST OF THE NIGHT.

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BEING MY THIRD NIGHT ON WATCH I ASKED CPL ALLEN WHAT TYPE OF ENTRY SHOULD BE MADE IN THE LOG BOOK. HE SAID TO PUT DOWN THAT THE ALARM SOUNDED AND THAT IT WAS INVESTIGATED. I DID. THE MORE I THOUGHT IT OVER IT SEEMED THE JOB (MY JOB) WASN'T COMPLETE UNTIL MY NCOIC FOUND OUT ABOUT THE INCIDENT. I WAS HESITANT BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO GET A FELLOW MARINE IN ANY TROUBLE. AFTER ALL, THESE TWO MARINES DID COME TO

MY AID WHEN IT WAS IN GREAT NEED. /S/ LARRY W. SMITH. UNQTE

4. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THE ATTEMPTED BREAK-IN COULD HAVE BEEN A TEST BY AN UNFRIENDLY SERVICE OF EMBASSY RE-ACTIONS AND DEFENSES. WHETHER OR NOT THIS IS THE CASE, AN EXPERT REVIEW OF THE EMBASSY'S PHYSICAL AND TECHNICAL SECURITY IS IN ORDER.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: THE REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER AT ADDIS ABABA IS REQUESTED TO SCHEDULE A VISIT TO MOGADISCIO ASAP IN ORDER TO ADVISE THE EMBASSY AND THE DEPT. LOUGHRAN

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